


It is clear that Don Jesús is a fervently religious man who wants to put on record the work of the Catholic missionaries and priests who have done so much for and to the island. This book will surely please those to wish to read about their exploits. Furthermore, the section on the slave raids is excellent and brings to light for the first time a number of significant facts. The 56 reproduced documents are often of inestimable value and at times fascinating to read. (See, for example, the 4½ page report, "Germans", by the island manager Henry P. Edmunds, written about the 1914 arrivals of German warships.) Finally, the abundant photographs are excellently reproduced and frequently of considerable interest.

However, the interested reader who wants to have a "Documented History" of the island will find the book extremely spotty of information (Katherine Routledge is barely mentioned) and crammed with virtually irrelevant details. Spelling out the hour, day, month, year and exact place of inconsequential events in a text not much longer than the Sports Section of the Sunday *El Mercurio* is not exactly how one wants to spend US \$52.

 *The Maui Handbook: Including Molokai and Lanai* by J. D. Bisignani. 1995. Fourth Edition, Moon Publications, Chico, Calif. 393 pages, 36 maps, drawings photographs (some in color). ISBN 56691-057-9. Price: \$14.95. Phone: (800) 345-5473.

Review by Kay Kenady Sanger, Calabasas, California

Seasoned travelers look for three things in a guidebook: it must be crammed with useful information as thick as one-fingered *poi*, but small enough to pack in carry-on luggage for easy reference; it needs to have well-organized, accessible format; and it should contain accurate, thoughtful background information to help readers appreciate the place.

Moon Publication's *Maui Handbook*, fourth edition, which also includes Molokai and Lanai, covers the first two points pretty well. For a book about an island that most *haoles* visit just to loaf on the beach, it suggests plenty of action. Chapters in the pocket-sized book divide the island into geographic sections, each of which concisely describes and provides insider's tips about the same topics: beaches, accommodations, food, entertainment, and shopping.

An eight-page index allows readers to quickly peruse sightseeing options ranging from air tours to zoos. I'm not an authority on Maui, although I've been there a few times to snorkel and relax in the last 10 years. To test the book's accuracy, I looked up "snorkel" in the index, and sure enough, I found my favorite snorkel beaches faster than I could say *humuhumunukunukaapua* 'a. Similarly, the separate indexes on hotels and restaurants listed the spots I've visited, but I must add that as a writer of a couple of guidebooks myself, I know how quickly a guidebook can go out of date. One good hurricane or hotel bankruptcy and the author is left with *pu pu* on the face, so to speak. It's always best to call first before

heading to a place suggested in a guidebook.

Readers can easily find these destinations on the book's 38 maps. One of the maps places Maui in a broader context, at the top of the Polynesian triangle, with "Easter" on the eastern side.

A glossary presents a few well-used Hawaiian words, like *wiki* (fast) and *wiki wiki* (very fast). The book also has a 60 page introductory section that covers history, flora and fauna, government and the people. The breezy text in the history section moves *wiki wiki* from Marquesan migrations to Statehood, although it is certainly more comprehensive than the other Hawaiian guidebooks on my shelf.

But for those interested in the pre-history of the island and the Polynesian remnants that remain, the book has a few shortcomings. The background information is designed for tourists, with little thought given to the local or original island population.

For example, I discovered "petroglyphs" in the index and then read with horror as the author advises the reader to "claw your way up the hill to the petroglyphs, which are believed to be 300 years old." There is no mention of preserving the site or discouraging readers from adding to the graffiti that already occurs there. Directions to another site guide tourists up an overgrown trail to the left of a "No Trespassing" sign, with a warning to "be very careful of your footing" while climbing among the petroglyphs rocks because the crumbly ground and vegetation are slippery. What about being careful of the petroglyphs?

Readers who want to know more about the island won't find the five-page booklist very useful. For example, the History/Political Science section suggests 21 books for further reading, but more than half were published during the 1960s or before. The main work recommended for background on the origins of Hawaiian population is Thor Heyerdahl's *American Indians in the Pacific*, published in 1952. Thank Pele, the author didn't use it as a reference for his chapter on the historic background on Hawaii. Why then, would he want to confuse his readers by suggesting this book for background reading? Better choices would be Patrick Kirch's fine book on Hawaii, *Feathered Gods and Fishhooks*, University of Hawaii Press (1985) and J. Halley Cox and Edward Stasack's classic *Hawaiian Petroglyphs*, Bishop Museum Special Publication 60 (1970).

In summary, the *Maui Handbook* is a useful guide for the casual visitor. It's a *wiki* read, and will help tourists get around the island easily. But for my anthropological taste, some of the background information is about as thin as three-fingered *poi*.

●* *Ancient Egyptian Survivals in the Pacific*, by R.A. Jairazbhoy, 1990. Karnak House, Billing & Sons Ltd., Worcester, England. 78 pages, Black and white drawings and a 3 photos. ISBN 0-907015-49-2.

Review by Georgia Lee

Just when you thought it was safe to go to the bookstore again, it had to happen. It was inevitable that someone would write the world's worst off-the-wall book about Easter Island. Having suffered through some of those old turkeys such as Werner Wolff's *Island of Death* (statues in the quarry were blown onto their *ahu* by volcanic activity) and the super-diffusionist *American Indians in the Pacific* by Heyerdahl, I thought we had reached the nadir. Not so. R.A. Jairazbhoy has surpassed them all. The *Ishtar* of the book world.

It seems that, according to Jairazbhoy, *everything* can be traced back to Egypt. Some Polynesian/Rapa Nui features are tracked from Egypt to Mexico to South America and *then* to Rapa Nui. Along with many valid but misinterpreted references, Jairazbhoy relies heavily on his own previous writings as proof of his theories. (For example, and to give a feel for his mind-set, one of his earlier books is titled *Ancient Egyptians and Chinese in America*).

Even the Easter Island birdman contest can be traced back to Egypt: "If one were to propose antecedents to the practice, the thought of the Egg of the Egyptian sungod would have to come to mind" (Actually, this possibility not once crossed MY mind).

The Conclusion starts off with: "If one looks simply at the ethnographic art of the Pacific islanders. . . one would never suspect that there are links in these cultures with the high civilizations of the Continents" (*No Kidding!*) And, "This is the only way of accounting for the remarkable parallels in belief with the higher civilisations. . ."

I, for one, am tired of racist theories and attitudes which denigrate the capabilities and creativity of the Polynesian peoples. Aside from a good laugh, I can't think of any reason to recommend this book. □

References

- Heyerdahl, T. 1952. *American Indians in the Pacific*. London
Wolff, W. 1973. *Island of Death*. Hacker Art Books, N.Y.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Bulletin de la Société des Etudes Océaniques*. 1995. No. 265-266. Tome XXIII No. 3-4 for March-June. Tahiti.
- *Centre for South Pacific Studies Newsletter*. 1995. Vols 9, 2 and 3. University of New South Wales.
- Coulson, Alan S. 1995. Easter Island in the First World War. *Relevance: The Quarterly Journal of the Great War Society*, Vol.4(2). P.O. Box 4585, Stanford, CA 94309. Pg. 5-7.
- Diamond, Jared. 1995. Easter's End. *Discover*, Vol. 18 (8) for August, pp. 63-9.
- Federova, Irina. 1995. *Kohau Rongorongo from MAE*

(*Kunstammer*). In Russian.

The English summary states: The enigmatic *rongorongo*--unique script in Polynesia was invented by Easter Islanders before the first contacts by Europeans. This publication presents the results of deciphering, reading and translation of hieroglyphic texts on two *kohau rongorongo* tablets from the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology (MAE-Kunstammer) in St. Petersburg. The study shows it to be a hieroglyphic script that reproduced the living speech and every sign is equal to the morphem or the syllable. There is a considerable number of plants' names, some toponyms (names of bays), titles of chiefs, etc. The book contains a catalog of signs with their meaning and translation.

- Ligabue, Giancarlo and Giuseppe Orefici, eds. 1994. *Rapa Nui: gli ultimi argonauti*. Erizzo Editrice, Piazzale Roma 499, 30135 Venezia, Italy. ISBN 88-7077-032-X. Hard cover, glossy paper, oversize (8½ x 11½), 362 pages, plus bibliography. 153 color plates including some great two-page spreads, numerous black and white photos, line drawings, and maps. In Italian. Price not stated.

This quality-produced volume contains papers by Davide and Viviano Domenici (I naufraghi del Pacifico), Giuseppe Orefici (Il popolamento della Polinesia e Rapa Nui; L'origine dei Rapa Nui tra storia e leggenda; and Risorse economiche e attività espressive), Gianpaolo Monti Martinengo (Geologia dell'Isola di Pasqua), Luigi Piacenza (La vegetazione dell'isola e le sue modifiche nel tempo), Andrea Drusini (Aspetti antropologici dei Rapa Nui), Giuliano Romano (Astronomia nell'Isola di Pasqua), Giancarlo Ligabue (Il sentiero dell'alba), José Miguel Ramírez (Migrazioni polinesiane), Andrzej Jacek Tomaszewski (L'industria litica), Antonio Paolillo (Applicazioni tecnologiche; Agricoltura e territorio), Georgia Lee (L'arte rupestre), and Patricia Vargas Casanova (Modelli insediativi).

- *L'Echo de Rapa Nui*. 1995. No. 31, Juillet. Brain L'Alleud, Belgique.

- Orefici Giuseppe, ed. 1995. *La Terra dei Moai: dalla polinesia all'isola di Pasqua*. Erizzo Editrice, Santa Croce 499, 30135 Venezia, Italy. Exhibition Catalog, Palazzo Reale, Milano (7 marzo-28 maggio 1995). ISBN 88-7077-034-6. Soft cover, oversize (8¼ x 11½), glossy paper, 282 pages plus bibliography. 86 color plates including some great two-page spreads, black and white photos, line drawings and maps. In Italian. Lira, 80,000.

This catalog was produced to accompany an exhibition of Easter Island artifacts, along with some other Pacific artifacts, shown this year in Milan, Italy. The exhibition was scheduled to end in May but as attendance far exceeded expectations, it was continued until mid-September. The exhibited pieces are illustrated and described (pp. 178-282); these were gathered from various sources in Chile and Italy, including several pieces from the Sebastian Englert Museum on Easter Island.

The main text of the book contains various papers about the island: Giuseppe Orefici (L'Isola di Pasqua e la Polinesia, and